THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) No time frame was fixed for the submission of the report of the wage Boards for journalists and non-journalists at the time of the constitution in September, 1994. However, tentative proposals of the Boards are expected by December, 1999. The tentative proposals would be published to invite comments/objections at 4 to 6 weeks notice from concerned parties where after the Boards will give oral hearings before finalising the report. The Government has been extending all cooperation to enable the Boards to submit the report.

Spread of Child Labour in Orissa

1603. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of children rendered homeless in the cyclone affected districts in Orissa;

(b) whether there is a possibility of spreading of child labour in that State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent the spreading of child labour and to ensure their quick rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the State Government of Orissa, so far, 1000 orphans has been identified. More than 10,000 people have died and the number of children losing either single or both parents would be much more.

There is an apprehension of children joining the ranks of child labour as about 10 lakh houses have been swept away, 16 lakh houses have been damaged and more than a crore of people have been very badly hit financially and cannot afford to send their children to school.

District Labour Officers and Field Functionaries of cyclone affected districts of Orissa have been instructed to keep vigil. Project proposals for rehabilitation of children in cyclone affected districts have been submitted, including, to UNICEF and ILO.